Rice seniors walked through the Sallyport less than forty-eight hours ago, and already we are diving in to summer programming for our underclassmen. Group International Service trips have departed for Guatemala, Nicaragua and Bulgaria; Loewenstern Service and Civic Research Fellows are about to leave for various sites in South America, Africa, and Asia; and Houston Action Research Teams kicked off their summer projects today.

Before getting wrapped up in the next academic cycle, we want to take time to celebrate the many successes that students achieved through CCL programs this past year. In this issue, we highlight students’ initiatives in the community and share the outcomes of the many fellowship competitions that the CCL shepherds Rice students through each year. Through these stories, we hope you recognize the instrumental role of Rice faculty in ensuring that the CCL offers high impact, co-curricular leadership development.

We take tremendous pride in ensuring that the Class of 2016 left Rice with the knowledge and skills to make a positive impact in the world. We look forward to seeing the myriad forms that their actions will take.

Sincerely,
Caroline Quenemoen, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Before he even matriculated at Rice, Martin Rather decided that he wanted to change public education in the state of Texas by inspiring innovation at the grassroots level. He conceived of the Rather Prize, a $10,000 grant awarded to a Texas-based educator or student with the best idea to improve public education. Through partnership with the Center for Civic Leadership, the DJR Family Trust, Austin-based Mission Capitol and SXSWedu, he successfully held the first annual competition this past year.

In March, Martin announced to a full house at SXSWedu that Eastside Memorial High School in Austin won the inaugural prize.

Eastside Memorial’s winning idea, submitted by Dr. Sanford Jeames, was selected from ten finalists through a social media campaign that garnered over 13,000 votes and the recommendation of the Rather Prize Advisory Board.

The winning proposal, called the Student Training and Enrichment Project, or STEP Up Challenge, is intended to better serve underrepresented students in their transition from high school to college. The STEP Up Challenge will develop a mentoring program through partnership with local leaders, provide student apprenticeships at area businesses, and develop a meaningful college visit program.

Throughout the year, Martin has engaged Rice University students in the Rather Prize, assembling a committee of 15 to select the finalists and bringing a group to Austin to run the voting booth at the Texas Association of School Administrators Convention.

With funding from the Hilda and Hershel Rich Family Endowment for Student Community Service, a grant housed in the CCL, a team of four Rice undergraduates—Jaecey Parham, Gunny Liu, Daisy Gray, and Priya Kane—will work this summer under the advisement of Dr. Shelah Crear, Director of Student Success Initiatives and faculty in the Rice Teacher Certification Program, and Dr. Caroline Quenemoen, Executive Director of the CCL, to develop an implementation plan for Eastside Memorial. The team kicked off their work by attending a reception for Eastside Memorial hosted by State Rep. Eddie Rodriguez (D-Austin) at the State Capitol in Austin.
Rich Family Endowment supports civic leadership

The Hilda and Hershel Rich Family Endowment for Student Community Service supports student engagement with social issues. Projects funded by the Rich Family Endowment are intended to make a distinctive impact upon society, raise awareness among the Rice community, and foster and encourage leadership and creativity among Rice students. Here we highlight 3 student-led and initiated events from the Spring semester.

MobilityHouston@Rice Policy Challenge gave Rice undergraduates the opportunity to generate innovative solutions to mobility issues facing Houston. The event, held on March 22, was hosted in partnership with the Center for Civic Leadership, MobilityHouston, and the Roosevelt Institute. Rice junior Madhuri Venkateswar worked with the CCL to coordinate the event.

Student teams worked prior to the event to research and create policies relating to topics of accessibility, congestion, and public transit. During the event, students received feedback on their proposals from policy stakeholders, a group that included elected officials, representatives from city departments, non-profits, and commercial firms - all of whom have deep knowledge and interest in Houston's mobility policies.

Finally, the teams pitched their ideas to a panel of judges, who evaluated the proposals and awarded a prize of $1000 to the highest performing team.

The Channeling Passion Into Action Conference aimed to educate Rice students about social justice issues faced by the Greater Houston community and to create a space for coalition building, critical and reflective analysis, and the development of sustainable activism in the city of Houston. Blaque Robinson and Chavonte Wright, Rice seniors who coordinated the conference, envision Channeling Passion Into Action becoming an annual event at Rice, centering on a different topic or issue each year. This year's conference focused on the Black Lives Matter movement.

Channeling Passion Into Action, held on April 16, brought together Rice undergraduates as well as community members and students from the Houston area to discuss social justice, activism, and Black Lives Matter. Featured speakers were Houston activists Rhys Carraway and X’ene Sky.
(continued) Discussions included mass incarceration and the criminal justice system, cultural appropriation, the role of women, self-care, how to be a social justice leader, the role of activism in both religion and art, academia, and the role of social media in the movement. Attendees split into teams and were tasked with choosing a social justice issue pertinent to black lives and creating a campaign action plan. Team members developed connections with one another and planned to work on their campaigns post-conference.

The Trans Activism Speaker Series sought to connect Rice students with members of the Houston trans community in order to learn about issues that they might not otherwise engage with, and to encourage critical consciousness and the desire to advocate for trans members of the Rice and Houston communities.

With sponsorship from the Rich Family Endowment, the Queer Resource Center Series on Gender and Activism hosted three events where local trans and intersex activists on campus engaged students in critical discourse about gender, sex, and justice.

Local activist and artist Ranma Kumayama provided detailed information about what it means to be intersex, major issues of injustice facing intersex people today, where intersex and transgender issues overlap and diverge, and important things to know when seeking to be an ally for intersex people and communities. Local gender performance troupe Gendermyn discussed gender performance, both on stage and off, delving into the empowerment that can come from gender as well as the everyday act of performing gender.

At the third event, Houston transgender activist and historian Cristan Williams spoke thoroughly and powerfully about the history of transgender activism, both at the national level and locally in Houston, much of which Williams was personally involved with.

The heart behind all three events was to equip campus community members with tools to engage critically with issues of gender and justice both in thought and in action. We are very grateful to the Houston activists who participated and look forward to continued relationships between Rice's campus and the greater Houston community.

For more information on the Rich Family Endowment, please visit our website.
Four students completed the Capstone for the Certificate in Civic Leadership this spring. The Capstone is a two-semester sequence of courses in which students who have petitioned to acquire a Certificate in Civic Leadership work with a CCL instructor, a faculty advisor, and a community partner to research an issue in depth, develop a proposal to address the issue in a rigorous fashion with the community partner, and implement their proposed project in the spring semester. Our second cohort of Certificate students completing capstone projects presented their successful projects publicly at the end of the semester.

Under the guidance of her faculty advisor, Dr. Yehuda Sharim, Linda Park worked with IEDA Relief, an organization that works to address poverty with a focus on immigrant and refugee populations in the Houston area. Linda developed a needs assessment study, interviewing clients who use IEDA’s programming to determine the viability of community gardening programming as a potential enhancement for IEDA’s services.

Dani Maldonado deepened her relationship with Fifth Ward’s Pleasant Hill Leadership Initiative by developing a place-based critical pedagogy for afterschool programming for children in K-5. Her project engaged students in community history projects and encouraged them to collaboratively celebrate their neighborhood leaders. Dani’s faculty advisor was Dr. Linda McSpadden McNeil.

Bridget Schilling, with support from her faculty advisor, Dr. Bridget Gorman, also worked with Pleasant Hill, developing a Healthy Relationships curriculum for the teenage students involved with the Pleasant Hill Leadership Institute. Bridget worked with students throughout the spring semester and developed a full program that will be adapted and offered in summer. Additionally, Bridget received the Morty Rich Scholarship for her commitment to service.

Anne Wells worked with Amigos de Las Americas and Engineers without Borders to adapt a curriculum for training engineering students who are working on international development projects in community-based planning, ethical research and service, and understanding the implications of international work. Anne’s curriculum was piloted and students working on projects this summer have been trained. Anne worked in consultation with Dr. Ann Saterbak who also invited Dr. Jorge Loyo to the presentation (pictured above) to facilitate the continued implementation of the project.

At commencement, Anne was also honored with 2016 Sheryl WuDunn Commencement Award for Social Justice for her academic and service work in international community development and education. She was also awarded the Alan Grob Prize for commitment to service.

We are proud of the partnerships, collaborations, and impactful projects these students completed.
Since 2013, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) has collaborated with the Center for Civic Leadership through a series of Houston Action Research Team (HART) projects. Under the advisement of Dr. Alan Steinberg, Associate Director; Dr. Libby Vann, Director of Programs and Partnerships; and Dr. Robert Stein, faculty advisor, Rice students have worked with HPARD to improve city parks.

In 2013, HPARD conducted a web-based survey to gather information for their 2014 Master Plan. Analysis of the survey by the CCL and HPARD revealed that respondents to the 2014 HPARD survey were predominantly high income, non-Hispanic Whites living on the west side of Houston, within or immediately outside the 610 loop.

In 2015, at HPARD’s request, a HART team consisting of students Sally Hodges-Copple, Emily Jacobson, Lucy Matveeva, and Tanvi Sharma (pictured left) designed and conducted a targeted survey of park users who were initially underrepresented — predominantly African American and Hispanic residents of east, northeast, and southeast areas of the city. Results from this second survey showed that users primarily wanted enhanced maintenance and security as well as new and improved parks facilities and amenities, including playgrounds and bathrooms. Additionally, the Spring 2015 Survey found that user preferences varied across parks, and in particular, that preferences turned more towards connectivity as park quality increased.

The findings from the Spring 2015 survey have influenced subsequent projects. Further, analysis of the data revealed the importance of integrating community voices into park planning. The Spring 2015 survey work was published as a peer-reviewed journal article entitled “More Inclusive Parks Planning: Park Quality and Preferences for Park Access and Amenities” in the February 2016 issue of Environmental Justice.

During the same time, collaboration between the CCL and HPARD continued through two HART projects tasked with improving the understanding of park quality. In the Fall of 2015, a HART team composed of students Ben Jones, Rachel Galton, Liz Stanfel and Danielle Whyte (pictured right), focused on formulating a notion of park quality and a tool that HPARD staff could use to assess that quality. This resulted in the Parks and Urban Recreation Evaluation (PURE). The PURE consists of two components: a scoresheet for use onsite at the park, and a data-intensive component which takes crime, accessibility, and other factors into account. When completed, the two components of the PURE are combined to generate a holistic measure of park quality.

In the Spring of 2016, a HART project focused on gathering park user opinions in order to determine how uses assess park quality.

At present, the work of the 2016 team is being examined in tandem with the 2015 PURE tool to help HPARD better understand how park quality can be evaluated.
2016 Fellowship Winners

The Center for Civic Leadership advises students applying to fellowships and scholarships, and each year the Rice Faculty Committee on Fellowships and Awards works tirelessly to review student applications. We would like to thank the committee members:

Matthew Baring, Chair
Department of Physics and Astronomy

Andrea Ballestero
Department of Anthropology

Jim Brown
Department of Economics

Shih-Hui Chen
Shepherd School of Music

Rajdeep Dasgupta
Department of Earth Science

Leonardo Duenas-Osorio
Dept of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Frank Geurts
Department of Physics and Astronomy

Arthur Gottschalk
Shepherd School of Music

Randal Hall
Department of History

Gisela Heffes
Department of Hispanic Studies

Nick Iammarino
Department of Kinesiology

Maya Irish
Department of History

Marek Kimmel
Department of Statistics

Junichiro Kono
Dept of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Steven Lewis
Asian Studies, Baker Institute

Stephan Link
Department of Chemistry

Jun Lou
Dept of Materials Science and Nanoengineering

Carolyn Nichol
Department of Chemistry

Alex Regier
Department of English

Volker Rudolph
Dept of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

Devika Subramanian
Department of Computer Science

Tomasz Tkaczyk
Department of Bioengineering

Jesus Vassallo
School of Architecture

Stephen Zeff
Jones Graduate School of Business

We are proud to announce the fellowship winners for 2016. Please see the following pages for the recipients of the Fulbright, Watson, Wagoner, Zeff, Rhodes, Schwarzman, Truman and Goldwater Scholarships.
Fulbright Scholars

Students who receive a Fulbright grant have a strong academic background, leadership potential and a passion for expanding mutual understanding among different nations and cultures. This year, 7 Rice University students were awarded Fulbright grants to study, teach and/or conduct research in a foreign country.

Abraham Younes, a Sociology major, will serve as an English teaching assistant in Madrid, Spain for nine months. In Madrid, Younes will be placed at a high school where he will assist permanent teaching staff in English and other subjects such as history and social studies. He will also prepare students at his school for the Global Classrooms (Model UN) project and will participate in the program proceedings.

Beatrice Herrmann, a Biochemistry and Cell Biology major, will study and research Fundamental Microbiology with the École Normale Supérieure de Cachan in Paris, France for a year. With the conclusion of her research in Paris, she will obtain her Master’s degree in Microbiologie Fondamentale.

Erin Rieger, a Chemistry and Sociology major, will conduct research with the Norwegian Centre for Minority Health Research and University of Oslo this year in Oslo, Norway for 10 months. Erin will study behavioral prevention strategies to address the high prevalence of obesity among female Turkish immigrants in Oslo.

Michael Donatti, a Mechanical Engineering major, will pursue an MSc in Environmental Policy and Management at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom for one year. He hopes to one day craft policy that reduces greenhouse gas emissions from energy production.

Spencer Seballos, a double major in Biochemistry & Cell Biology and Hispanic Studies, is a Fulbright ETA recipient and will be teaching English at the University of Health Sciences (UHS) in Vientiane, Laos for one year. When he returns to the United States after his Fulbright grant, he plans to attend the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine.
Fulbright Scholars (continued)

**Clare Monfredo**, a Master’s student at Rice University’s Shepherd School of Music, will study at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Leipzig, Germany for ten months. Over the course of her Fulbright project, Clare will study the six Unaccompanied Suites for Cello by J.S. Bach under the tutelage of the cellist Peter Bruns.

**João Ascensão**, a Bioengineering major, will conduct research at Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, Spain for one year. He will work in the Dynamical Systems Biology Lab under Dr. Jordi García-Ojalvo to perform research on the dynamics of gene regulatory circuits.

**Luce Scholar**

The Luce Scholars program provides stipends, language training, and professional placements in Asia.

**Nathan Truong**, who graduated from Rice in 2014 with a Bachelor’s in Biochemistry and Cell Biology, will spend the next year working in Asia.

**Rhodes Scholar**

The prestigious Rhodes Scholarship, the oldest of the international study awards available to American students, provides for two or three years of study at the University of Oxford in England.

**Tom Carroll** is Rice’s 12th Rhodes Scholar. He received his Bachelor of Arts this May in Biochemistry and Classical Studies. While at the University of Oxford, Carroll will research p53, which is a tumor suppressor that is implicated in about half of all cancer cases.

**Schwarzman Scholar**

The Schwarzman Scholars program awards students with a fully funded scholarship for postgraduate study at the new Schwarzman College at Tsinghua University in Beijing.

**Isabel Scher** will pursue a Master’s degree in Economics and Business at Tsinghua University. She graduated this May with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. She plans to work with McKinsey & Company as a business analyst after she completes her studies through the Schwarzman Scholars program.
Wagoner Scholars

The Wagoner Foreign Study Scholarship provides graduating seniors, graduate students, and recent alumni the opportunity to conduct research abroad for a minimum of eight weeks to one year.

**Tony Zhuang** (Will Rice ’16) will work with King’s College London in London, UK for ten weeks this summer. The first half of his study will focus on mapping the functionality and problems associated with electronic health record systems in England. He will then evaluate how utilization of these systems has redefined patient-centered care.

**Catherine Chantre** (Duncan ‘2016) will conduct research with the University of Cape Town in South Africa for one year. Catherine will spend her year researching the link between racial identity and HIV and gender-based violence risk. The study will provide a greater look into how categorizations affect the health profiles of individuals belonging to a racially stratified society.

**Kinsey Dittmar** (Duncan, ’16) will work with Project Mercy in Yetebon, Ethiopia for 8 months. Her project has two components. She will be testing the efficacy of the Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO®) course and analyzing collected survey data to better understand the relationship between utilization of and proximity to healthcare services as well as the perceived health problems associated with pregnancy.

**Y. Daniel Lee** (Lovett ’17) will study at ETH Zurich’s Department of Biosystems Science and Engineering this summer 2016 in Basel, Switzerland for 11 weeks. He will by exploring stem cell biology in terms of the dynamics and specific actions of transcription factors (proteins that control gene expression) that determine stem cell fate.

**Nicki Chamberlain-Simon** (Lovett ’16) will work with the Applied Ergonomics Laboratory at the Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica in Cartago, Costa Rica for 9 months. She will be investigating a 3D printed prosthetic design in order to reduce the cost of assistive care.
Wagoner Scholars (continued)

Jacob Krauss (Martel ’17) will conduct research with Alicia Lamb in conjunction with Centre ValBio in Ranomafana, Madagascar for 2 months. The project will compare groups of the Milne Edward’s Sifaka lemurs (*Propithecus edwardsi*) in protected areas with those in areas of high human activity.

Chloe Nguyen (Wiess ’15) will conduct a design project at Medical Technology Transfer and Services (MTTS) this fall 2016 in Hanoi, Vietnam for nine months. Chloe’s project will consist of developing and testing a newborn warming bassinet design for low-resource hospitals.

Marica Sharashenidze will work with the School for Higher Economics in St. Petersburg, Russia for the 2016-2017 school year. Marica will be conducting an ethnography of a group of children of migrant laborers.

Watson Fellow

The Thomas J. Watson Fellowship is a one-year grant for purposeful, independent study outside the United States, awarded to graduating seniors nominated by Rice University.

Kira Clingen is a senior majoring in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Asian Studies and Policy Studies. During her Watson year, she will immerse herself with communities determined to mitigate their vulnerability to climate change. She will travel to Turkey, Mauritius, Maldives, China, Uganda, the Netherlands, and New Zealand.

Zeff Fellow

The Roy and Hazel Zeff Fellowship supports a year of world travel and independent study. The Zeff is awarded to the Rice student who was ranked highest by the Rice Faculty Committee on Fellowships and Awards but did not receive a Watson Fellowship.

Emma Terell, a major in Music Performance, Percussion, through Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, plans to spend her Zeff year traveling in Peru, Rwanda, South Africa, India, and Indonesia. She will explore the perspectives of women percussionists in different cultures, and seeks to understand how the roles of women in traditional music reflects the broader social roles of women.
Undergraduate Fellowship Winners

Goldwater Scholars
The Goldwater Scholarship is a university-nominated award that provides funding to students intending to pursue a career in science, math, or engineering.

**Henry Bair** is a junior working on a B.S. in biochemistry and cell biology and a B.A. in medieval/early modern studies. He plans to pursue medical and doctorate degrees in pathobiology and then conduct translational research on biologics for cardiopulmonary disorders, teach at an academic institution and carry out clinical work at a hospital.

**Austin Cao** is a sophomore majoring in Chemistry with a specialization in Medicinal Chemistry. A Rice-Baylor Medical Scholar, Cao will attend Baylor College of Medicine after graduating from Rice and will continue to pursue his passion for clinical research.

**Megan McCurry**, a Rice junior majoring in Biochemistry and Cell Biology, received an honorable mention from the Goldwater Foundation.

Truman Scholar
Recipients of the highly competitive Truman Scholarship are awarded up to $30,000 to be used for graduate study in the U.S. or abroad.

**Anjali Bhatla**, a Rice junior majoring in Health Sciences and Policy Studies, plans to pursue an M.D./Master of Public Health dual degree and ultimately develop and implement policies that help make health care systems more equitable and efficient.
Service Awards and Scholarships

The Rice Student Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Rice University sponsor prestigious scholarships and awards for dedicated service organizations and individual students. Recipients of the following awards are recognized for their long-term commitments to service.

**Morty Rich Scholarship:**
Anoosha Moturu
Constantine Tzouanas
Bridget Schilling
Andrew Ta

**Alan Grob Prize:**
Kimberly Rightor
Anne Wells
Tina Chu

The CCL ropes a Houston rodeo award!

The Center for Civic Leadership won the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo 2016 Go Texan Day Contest in the Nonprofit category!
Summer 2016
Houston Programs

*Urban Immersion (UI)* is an annual summer program that introduces incoming Rice students to the principles of critical service-learning and to the City of Houston. Participants will be involved in both direct and indirect service projects at local agencies. In addition to service, participants also engage in educational sessions that aim to introduce them to the communities that make up the city and provide context for that day's service experience.

Two sessions will be held:
*Sunday, July 10 - Friday, July 15*
*Sunday, July 17 - Friday, July 22*

Upcoming Event: Discover Research Fair

**Thurs, August 25 | 4-7 PM**

**Rice Memorial Center, Grand Hall**

The Center for Civic Leadership is partnering with the Student Association and the Graduate Student Association to host the annual Discover Research Fair. The Fair is an excellent way for undergraduates to learn about research opportunities from faculty and students who represent a variety of departments and programs.

Summer Reading: LRME Common Interest Cohorts

In addition to developing their leadership capacities through their summer internship placements, the students in this year’s *Leadership Rice Mentorship Experience (LRME)* program are also engaging with community issues they’re passionate about. Students across geographical placements have divided into Common Interest Cohorts and will spend the summer learning more about how their chosen common interest affects the community they are in. Once it goes live, we’ll share the students’ blog, where you’ll be able to read about the activities, experiences, and learning outcomes for each Common Interest Cohort.

2016 Group International Service Trips

*The Group International Service (GIS)* program allows Rice students to engage in community-driven, sustainable projects abroad during the summer. This year, student groups are traveling to Las Salinas, Nicaragua to gain an increased understanding of sustainable development and to work with the nonprofit organization Project Schoolhouse on an engineering project to design a stormproof window; to Guatemala to learn about the country’s culture and environment, with a focus on special needs education; and to Sofia, Bulgaria to work with the nonprofit Global Foodbanking Network and the Bulgarian Food Bank to learn more about hunger and food safety, and to become advocates for the importance of food security.